Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 HA-05 TRSE-00 PC-01 /080 W
------080033 230303Z /62

R 191711Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8113
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/ TAGS: PINT. PINS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: CLASH IN COUNTRYSIDE RESULTS IN DEATH OF TWO
CAMPESINOS

1. A CLASH BETWEEN "CAMPEISNOS", REPORTEDLY LED BY FECCAS AND THE UTC, AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (NG) OCCURRED IN THE CITY OF ZACATECOLUCA (DEPARTMENT OF LA PAZ) ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17. ASSISTING THE NG WERE SOLDIERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES INSTRUCTION CENTER FOR ENGINEERS (CIIFA). THE "CAMPESINO" GROUP WAS HOLDING A MEETING IN FRONT OF THE MUNITIPALITY, REPORTEDLY IN COMMEMORATION OF INCIDENTS THAT HAD OCCURRED IN THE TOWN OF AGUILARES TWO YEARS BEFORE. OSTENSIBLY ACTING ON THE BASIS THAT THIS GROUP HAD NOT SOUGHT PRIOR PERMISSION FOR THE MEETING FROM THE AUTHORITIES AND ALSO ACTING ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF DEFENSE AND GUARANTEE OF PUBLIC ORDER, ELEMENTS OF THE NG AND THE CIIFI DISPERSED THE "CAMPESINOS".

2. IN PURSUING MEMBERS OF THE "CAMPESINO" GROUP AND SECURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ZONE AROUND ZACATECOLUCA, AGENTS OF THE NG WERE ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED BY "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" IN THE CANTON OF EL ESPINO ARRIBA, FOUR KILOMETERS FROM ZACATECOLUCA. IN AN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE, AGENTS OF THE NG KILLED JOSE NATIVIDAD AREVALO RODRIGUEZ AND WOUNDED OSCAR GABRIEL CAMINOS ROJAS (WHO DIED SOON AFTER BEING TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL). UPON FLEEING, THE "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" REPORTEDLY LEFT BEHIND SOME SUBMACHINE GUNS,

CARTRIDGES, AND A FLAG WITH THE INSIGNIA OF THE FPL OR POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT.

3. COMMENT. PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT TWO FPL MEMBERS WERE KILLED. EVIDENCE FOR THIS CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, SEEMS SOMEWHAT FLIMSY AS SECURITY FORCES WERE NOT EVEN CERTAIN CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE DECEASED. DEVINE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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